

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are pending in the present application. Claims 8, 10-13 and 15-18 stand rejected. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1, 3-7 and 14. Claims 1-18 have been amended, at least in part, for minor formatting changes. Claim 19 has been added. No new matter has added. The Examiner's reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendment and the following remarks.

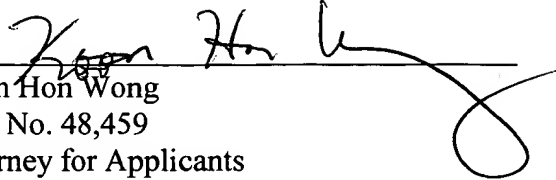
Claims 8, 10-13 and 15-18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kirch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,324,161) (hereinafter "Kirch") in view of Connelly et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,594,786) (hereinafter "Connelly").

Independent claims 8, 13 and 15-18 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claim 1. Dependent claims 10-13 and 19 are allowable as depending from claim 8. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 8, 10-13 and 15-18 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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